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ant.
aliphatic carboxylic acids having hydrocarbon chains
consisting of 8 to 20 carbon atoms.--

Add the following new claims:

--30. The filter material of claim 18 wherein the matrix, prior to incorporation therein of said material comprising a base formed substantially of cellulose fibers, has a density no greater than 0.25 gcm^{-3} .

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--31. The filter material of claim 30 wherein said density is 0.01 to 0.18 gcm^{-3} .

--32. The filter material of claim 31 wherein said matrix has a thickness of about 3 mm to about 4 mm.

--33. The filter material of claim 18 wherein said cellulose fibers, by virtue of said one or more aliphatic carboxylic acids being adsorbed thereon, comprise hydrophobic hydrocarbon chains projecting therefrom.

~~--34. In a filter device comprising at least one filter element, the improvement wherein said at least one filter element comprises the filter material of claim 18.--~~

REMARKS

The Official Action of February 13, 2001, and the references cited and applied therein have been carefully